

ACCT Meeting Notes - Friday, August 3, 2007

In Attendance

Council

Paula Hammond
Katy Taylor
Vickie Foster
Rep. Mike Armstrong
Allan Jones
Doug Porter
Bernice Robinson
Marilyn Mason Plunkett (by phone)
Margaret Casey
Theresa Hekel
Richard DeRock
Page Scott

Support Staff

Don Chartock, ACCT Administrator
Rhonda Fullerton

Open and Introductions

Paula started the meeting at 9:36 a.m. Council, staff and audience introduced themselves.

Membership Update - Katy Taylor/Paula Hammond/Don Chartock

Paula Hammond and Don Chartock outlined a few staff and membership changes:

- Robin Phillips has left the staff to join the American Bus Association.
- Don Chartock has taken over the role of ACCT Administrator.
- Vickie Foster is a new member on the Council representing the Washington Developmental Disabilities Council.
- Rep. Mike Armstrong is replacing Rep. Fred Jarrett as the Republican representing the House of Representatives on the Council.
- Don connected with the Governor's Office for new terms and updates on governor appointees.
- Allan Jones is now officially the representative of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.
- The Governor has appointed Paula Hammond as the Interim Secretary of Transportation. During the interim, Katy will be taking on the chairperson role for ACCT.

June Meeting Summary

Motion was made to approve Meeting Summary from June Meeting. It was seconded and approved.

Budget Update – Don Chartock

2005-2007 Budget – The CTAA has charged for the technical assistance that they have been providing. The budget sheet shows \$47,000 in state funds still there. WSDOT staff will correct this in the next budget update by charging JARC funds (Federal) instead.

2007-2009 Budget – There was no spending yet to report. We have reserved funds to help with legislatively assigned tasks, and for technical assistance.

Planning Guidelines – Don Chartock and Council

As part of ACCT's renewed enabling legislation, the Council is directed to review and recommend Locally Developed Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plans. Don provided a checklist for board members to review and give him comments/feedback:

- Richard DeRock requested that we add DSHS local offices and Work Source to the checklist of partners.
- Margaret Casey requested that we add Child Care Resource Referral
- Marilyn Mason Plunkett requested that we add Work Force Development Councils and Mental Health agencies.
- Paula Hammond asked who would use this checklist?
 - Don Chartock – It is made for the RTPOs to use when they are drafting their plans. ACCT/WSDOT will also use the checklist to determine if a plan has met its requirements.
- Page Scott asked how we are going to have recommendations.
 - Don indicated he would be welcome to how the council wants to handle it.
- Richard DeRock stated that there are issues around getting people to participate. Congress has been working at adding coordination requirements to other aspects also, but started with transportation.
- Paula Hammond stated that this gets to the heart of what we recommended for the reauthorization – are we an encouraging group or an advocacy group? We need to be strong on what we want to recommend.
- Margaret – We need more than a voluntary situation.
- Don said there is currently no money to support the planning process.
- Margaret wants to make sure facility-sighting issues are covered.
- Paula delegated to Don to work with Joint Transportation Committee to address some of these issues in the JTC study on coordinated transportation.

- Rep. Mike Armstrong suggested having 2 columns on checklist; 1 that says were invited to participate and 1 that says participating.
- Margaret stated that we need an incentive to get people involved in the planning process.
- Marilyn Mason Plunkett agreed and pointed out that this is true especially in the rural areas.
- Paula – we need to be creative in our way to get people to respond, we need to engage people.

Background Checks Roundtable

Roundtable Guests

Faith Trimble – FLT consultant

Dalene Sprick – FLT consultant

Jim Carter – Director of Administrative Services Division, DSHS

Lamona Foster - Background Check Central Unit Manager, DSHS

Alina Aaron - Transportation Coordinator, Human Services Council

Rick Maesner - TransPro

Debra Collinsworth – Section Manager, WSP

Patty Jensen – WSP

Faith Trimble Presented the results of their study looking into the duplicative practices agencies use when doing background checks. (The presentation is available online under August 3, 2007 Meeting.)

After the presentation was over, the discussion opened up:

- Jim Carter began by discussing DSHS's request legislation to streamline the process. He stated that we have not been successful moving our legislative recommendations through the process for a centralized background check system. We are discussing how we might move forward so they are more acceptable.
- Katy Taylor questioned why DSHS has not been successful with legislators?
- Jim Carter responded that the challenge is determining what standards should be used when determining what crimes would disqualify a person from working for DSHS. The legislators did could not agree on the standards. It is very difficult.
- Richard DeRock gave an example of an 18 year old who committed assault and is now a 50 year old driver. He had to be fired because the centralized system in California said so. You run the danger of eliminating potentially good workers.

Don asked that we follow the roundtable discussion sheet provided and try to answer the questions.

- Rick Maesner (provider) pointed out that he currently has to put drivers through multiple background checks and it would be easier if he only had to do it once.

- Alina Aaron (broker) said we have difficulties with Vancouver/Oregon area we have to run people through 2 different systems to get the information. Centralized system would be ideal.
- Katy Taylor asked if we could use a system of reciprocity until we get a centralized system?
- Alina Aaron answered that they go by whoever has the highest standard.
- Lynn Moody (Broker) stated that they require the FBI check and use it for clearance for all our services.
- Rep. Mike Armstrong asked if we are causing a larger problem with the solution or are we going to implement something we already have in place?
- Dalene Sprick stated that we have 2 issues here; where we conduct the background checks and what standards that we are going to use. She agreed that a cost benefit analysis needs to be done.
- Allan Jones pointed out that there are many differences in what the school districts do and the influence that OSPI has.
- Theresa Hekel gave an example of working in a school in the last 2 years, the applicant pays for the fingerprinting to be done, the FBI takes a long time to get back. Out of state abstracts take lot longer to get. It becomes very difficult to hire people.
- Faith Trimble stated that the purpose of the study is not to put any agency into a defensive mode. There are some gaps but all of the systems are working fine. The question is how we start to mix them and pull them together. The way they are now becomes the barrier in coordinating transportation.
- Margaret Casey said that we are wasting money all over the place because it is not being coordinated.
- Richard said that we need to know how the standards part is going to work first. We will not get buy off if we do not.
- Margaret asked if there is money to do a cost benefit analysis?
- Katy Taylor stated that we have some money and we need to identify where we are going to direct it.
- Doug Porter wanted to clarify that we were talking about clarifying only drivers standards.
- Rep. Mike Armstrong said that if we are going to look at this more closely, it would be interesting to me to see how many drivers have multiple background checks. If we have a small number of multiple checks, we do not need central clearinghouse.
- Don asked the brokers if they would you be able to tell me how many drivers have multiple background checks? Alina (HSC)– yes; Marilyn (Hopelink) – yes; Christie (Paratransit Services) – yes.
- Bernice stated that as a rider she has concerns about safety. She sees lots of drivers and questions what kind of standards they are meeting.
- Alina Aaron suggested that we not submit volunteers to the same standards as paid drivers. It is very difficult to get volunteer drivers, and if we make it too difficult for them, they just won't do it.

- Vickie Foster stated that as a rider listening to some of this I am now more concerned about access drivers and fixed route drivers.
- Katy – we will develop next steps for further work.

JTC Report Status – Don Chartock

This is a directive from the legislature. The Joint Transportation Committee is the lead and we are partnering. The RFP for the consultant will be released in September. The internal team has been established. We have more to discuss. This project has a 12/08 completion date.

Complaint Process Project – Richard DeRock and Council

Richard has completed a draft that been sent to WSTA and was forwarded to CTA NW. There is a work session scheduled for a at the conference for feedback. First draft is being reviewed by providers for feasibility. We will have further review at the October meeting.

Legislative Issues for the next Session – Council

A couple of issues surrounding the UTC were discussed –

- ACCT has long advocated for statewide regulation of cabulance providers. Currently, each jurisdiction does it separately, causing a barrier to coordination.
- Additionally, UTC still has regulations left over from the 80's when everything was regulated. Specifically intercity providers get a monopoly rights to a route and do not do anything with it. This can be troubling when local folks get together and figure out a transportation solution and then can't implement it due to someone holding a monopoly and not doing anything with it.

Margaret Casey suggested that there be planning money for local coalitions.

Additional Comments – Council and Audience

Ben Brackett from the PSRC wanted to follow up to what Margaret said. At PSRC we do not get much of the planning funds that come in.

Page Scott says they have a recognition that the planning agencies that have a prescribed role in keeping up and coordinating this public coordinated transportation plans without funding. The RTPOs have taken on the duties have increased but not the funding.

Emily Rogers said that a number of us were involved in getting the reauthorization of ACCT and I would like to put in a plug to be sure those particulars around the complaints process are reviewed by the users of the process. Don't leave us out. We need to be able to review what is being done, not just patch working.

Cathy Silins invited the ACCT members to come to the Public Transportation Conference. You are eligible for scholarship for your registration and lodging. We have an international keynote speaker coming from Boston, which will be addressing some of these issues. Also we have workshops highlighting on ADA and human resources issues.

Margaret wanted to note that folks in King County would not have not even gotten the first things done if PSRC did not step up and do it.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55.

Next meeting October 5, 9:30 a.m., right here.